

## MAUREEN EDWARDS

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November 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Nos. 98N-1230; 96P-0418; and 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to regarding the above docket numbers with regard to chicken egg production and forced molting, which forces chickens to stop laying eggs for a much shorter period of time than they would normally – one to two months versus the normal three to four months.

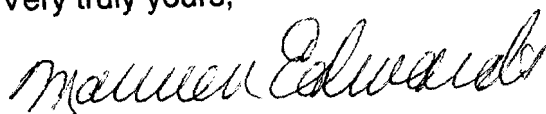
Of all farm animals, the modern laying hen endures the most restrictive conditions throughout its entire life. At any given time, over 6 million hens in the U.S. are being systematically starved in their cages. In Europe, feed deprivation is limited to one day because of stress to the birds.

Forced molting weakens immune systems in birds so badly that the birds become prone to disease and salmonella infections which are passed along to humans who eat the slaughtered birds or their eggs.

I would like to encourage the FDA to take a hard look at this practice and seriously consider a ban on depriving hens of food and water for more than one day, similar to the European regulations. The most effective way to reduce salmonella in eggs would be to eliminate the practice of forced molting. The FDA must do more than put warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Maureen Edwards

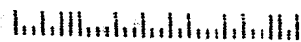
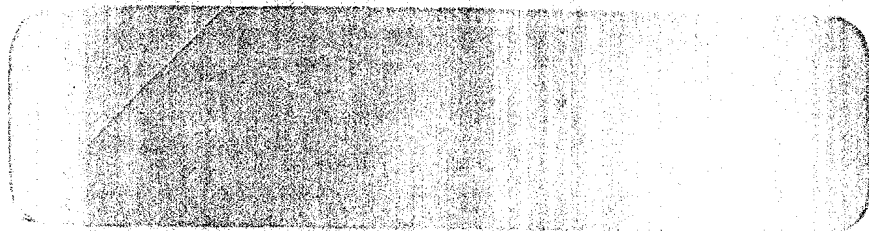
ME:bc

96P-0418

C 787

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C 787

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C 788

96P-0418/ C 787